

Application No. 10/646,704
Amendment dated April 28, 2008
Reply to Office Action of January 30, 2008

Docket No.: 0505-1227P

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

One sheet of Replacement Drawings is attached hereto.

Reference numerals have been added to FIGS. 2 and 3 to clearly illustrate the subject matter set forth in the claims.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 4-7, 11-15, 21 and 26 were previously cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1-3, 8-10, and 16-20 and 22-25, 27, and 28 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 17, 20, 22, 23, and 25 are amended. Claims 1, 17, and 23 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Examiner Interview

If, during further examination of the present application, any further discussion with the Applicants' Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen, at (703) 208-4030 (direct line) at his convenience.

Amendments To The Drawings

One sheet of Replacement Drawings is attached hereto. Reference numerals have been added to FIGS. 2 and 3 to clearly illustrate the subject matter set forth in the claims. No new matter has been added.

Amendments To The Specification

Paragraph [0024] has been amended in order to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections / Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claim 17 has been objected to and has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This objection and rejection are respectfully traversed.

In order to overcome this rejection, the Applicants have amended claim 17 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 1-3, 16-20, 22-25, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsergas (U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0031343) in view of Yeh (U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0124673); and claims 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsergas and Yeh, and further in view of Grant (U.S. Patent 6,361,257).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claim 1

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a gear transmission device, including *inter alia*

wherein the elastic member is a deformable closed ring, and

wherein an outer perimeter of the elastic member has a circular shape when viewed in plan view, and an inner perimeter of the elastic member has a non-circular shape when viewed in plan view.

See FIG. 3 for support.

By contrast, Grant merely discloses a ring having a cut, and a circular inner circumference.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Tsergas, Yeh, and Grant.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 17

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 17 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a gear transmission device, including *inter alia*

wherein at least a portion of the inner perimeter of the wave washer fits directly around an outer circumference of said first gear shaft.

See FIGS. 2 and 3 for support.

By contrast, Yeh merely discloses a coil spring fitting in a groove 42. and away from shaft 8.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 17 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Tsergas, Yeh, and Grant.

Therefore, independent claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to Independent Claim 23

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 23 has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a gear transmission device, including *inter alia*

an elastic member having first and second surfaces, the elastic member being disposed directly around the first gear shaft with the first side thereof directly facing the fixed gear; and

a plane washer disposed directly around the first gear shaft, the plane washer having a first side with an inner surface portion directly facing a second surface of the elastic member, and

an outer surface portion disposed radially outward with respect to the inner surface portion and directly facing ends of the cylinder portion ,

wherein the regulating means is adapted to regulate an increase of a bending amount of the elastic member by a predetermined value or more,

and when the elastic member is in a compressed state, only the outer surface portion is able to contact the ends of the cylinder portion.

See FIG. 2 for support.

By contrast, Yeh merely discloses a coil spring 5 fitting in a groove 42, and the plane washer 7 contacting second gear 4 on both sides of the coil spring 5.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 23 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Tsergas, Yeh, and Grant.

Therefore, independent claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 8, 20, 22, and 25 have been amended.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

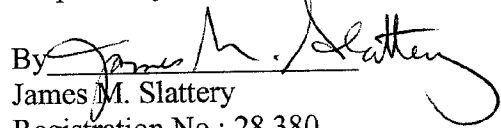
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen, (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Dated: April 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: One Sheet of Replacement Drawings

